

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE 3-2-05

BILL NO. HB 186



March 2, 2005

The Honorable Jim Elliott  
Chairman, Senate Taxation Committee  
Montana State Senate  
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Taxation Committee:

Segway LLC, located in Bedford, NH, supports the intent and objective of House Bill 186 and applauds the efforts of the Montana Department of Justice and Representative Bob Bergren. However, we are concerned that the proposed legislation could significantly impact the use of an emerging, safe and environmentally friendly personal transportation technology, the Segway Human Transporter (HT), which Segway LLC developed and manufacturers.

Quite simply, the Segway HT is unlike any other wheeled device. Its' operating characteristics are more pedestrian-like than say, motor scooter or pocket bike-like. Employing 5 solid-state gyroscopes, 10 on-board computers and a multitude of redundancy systems, the Segway HT moves forward, reverse or stop by simply shifting one's weight rather than pushing a throttle or brake. In fact, it is my understanding that just several weeks ago many members of the Montana State Legislature and government officials had an opportunity to experience the Segway HT within the halls of the State House.

Today, the U.S. Federal government, 40 states, several U.S. communities and a number of European nations regulate the Segway HT as an Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device or EPAMD. With a definition specific to the Segway HT, EPAMDs are not considered motor vehicles and are allowed to operate on many public ways including sidewalks and bike paths.

While House Bill 186 seeks to prohibit motorized nonstandard vehicles on its' public ways it may at the same time be unintentionally prohibiting the use of EPAMDs. Thus, Segway LLC strongly supports an amendment that would exempt EPAMDs from such a prohibition, allow its' continued use on the public ways of Montana, and preserve local regulation. We hope the Committee will support such language.

The Segway HT is currently being utilized throughout the world in various capacities including police, security, military functions, mail delivery, and as a personal transportation device for thousands of individuals. We hope the State of Montana will welcome its' use as so many other areas have.

Thank you for your consideration. Mr. Riley Johnson of MITSU Corporation will be representing Segway LLC at the hearing and will be available to answer additional questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Dailida  
Director of U.S. Regulatory & Government Affairs, Segway LLC